

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arden Cordova Water Service takes pride in the quality of water that is served to our community and always strives to keep our customers informed of any issues that may potentially affect your service. We continually monitor all of our water supplies for numerous chemical contaminants to ensure that the water served to you meets all State and Federal water quality standards. We often monitor for uncommon constituents that are not regulated but may pose a threat to our water supply according to new scientific studies. Recent analysis of our water supply shows a potential threat from a little known chemical called ammonium perchlorate. Ammonium perchlorate is an oxidizer that has been used by the aerospace industry in the testing of solid fuel rockets.

Public Health officials have told us that water containing ammonium perchlorate can interfere with the thyroid gland's ability to utilize iodine to produce thyroid hormones. As of now, neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) nor the California Department of Health Services has established a drinking water standard for ammonium perchlorate.

Since the 1980's Aerojet has been treating the groundwater contaminated with Trichloroethylene (TCE) by pumping from contaminated shallow wells, removing TCE through an air stripping treatment system, and then re-injecting the treated water into the deep portion of the groundwater aquifer. Unfortunately the treatment to remove TCE does not remove perchlorate which is also a contaminant in the shallow wells.

On October 25, 1996, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order to Aerojet to address the issue of on-site groundwater contamination by perchlorate. The abatement order was issued when the CVRWQCB determined that a plume of groundwater containing a high concentration of perchlorate was moving off-site from Aerojet toward public water supply wells.

As soon as we were notified of the potential threat to the community's water supply we had samples collected from all wells in the area. The results indicated three of our wells showed detectable levels of perchlorate. Because of the uncertainty associated with the health effects of perchlorate, these wells were immediately removed from service. We are continuing to work in cooperation with the Department of Health Services, the CVRWQCB, and the State Department of Toxic Substance Control to eliminate any future impact to our drinking water supply. We are also working diligently on construction of additional water delivery systems to meet the immediate water supply needs of the community.

If you have any questions, we urge you to contact the Arden Cordova Water Service's Customer Service Superintendent Michael W. Benbow. He can be reached at 916-852-0552.